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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	Masashi SAITO
Serial No.	:	09/750,605
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For	:	INTRAORAL IMAGING CAMERA SYSTEM
Group Art Unit	:	3732
Examiner	:	(Not yet known)

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Frank J. Jordan — 05/31/01
(Name of Registered Representative) (Signature and Date)

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 together with copies of the two references listed therein.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to issuance of the first Official Action. Therefore, there is no charge for filing this IDS.

Respectfully submitted,

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Information Disclosure Statement

1 While conducting experiments on taking photographs of the interior of an oral cavity with digital cameras and conventional ring-flash, I found that the direction of the light-receiving surface of the photo-metering sensor has to be located on the optical axis of the lens.

2 I supposed that "Macro Flash Sensor Type-2," a photo-metering sensor manufactured by National (refer to the attached National/Panasonic catalogue; Products No. PW-52M) was useful because the censor was an object independent from the control part of the ring-flash.

3 Ring-flashes easily available on the market were manufactured only by SUNPAK KABUSHIKI KAISHA or SUNPAK INC. and they do not adapt to the National "Macro Flash Sensor Type-2". In order to make available the SUNPAK ring-flashes (refer to the attached SUNPAK catalogue; products no. auto DX8R or auto DX12R), I chose a SUNPAK photo-metering censor and the SUNPAK "DX Remote Code"(refer to SANPAK catalogue; products no.EXT-09 or EXT-10), whose combination enabled the photo-metering censor located apart from the control part of the ring-flash and provided on top of the front of the lens-barrel.

4 However, as the combination did not work well, I could not take such good photographs as I had expected. Accordingly, I changed the location of the photometering censor in several ways as well as the angle at which the photo-metering censor was attached to the lens-barrel.

5 Then, I found attaching the censor to the lower part of the lens-barrel and setting it at an angle of about 23 degrees against the surface perpendicular to the optical axis of the lens works well in various conditions. Further, even in a few cases in which appropriate exposures are not obtained, free rotation of the photo-metering censor in the circumferential direction of the ring flash enables appropriate exposures.

March 14, 2001
Masashi SAITO